

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Don Jordan, Secretary

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

February 14, 2007

Senate Bill 201

**Integrated Service Delivery-Children and Family
Services**

Deputy Secretary Candy Shively

For additional information contact:

Public and Governmental Services Division
Kyle Kessler, Deputy Secretary

Docking State Office Building
915 SW Harrison, 6th Floor North
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1570
phone: 785.296.0141
fax: 785.296.4685
www.srskansas.org

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Senator Barnett and members of the committee, I'm Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary of SRS. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 201.

Federal law now requires states, prior to licensing foster homes, to conduct finger print background checks with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Kansas child abuse and neglect registry and the child abuse and neglect registry of any other state in which a potential foster parent resided during the preceding 5 years. Failure to comply by July 1, 2007 may result in a loss of federal funds. These funds are safeguarded by the changes in new section (e). Additional changes contained in SB 201 are unrelated to federal funding.

The amendments to section (a)(3) and (g) don't substantively change the law, but do add clarity. Currently there is no reference to the child abuse and neglect registry in Kansas statutes. The name grew out of the addition of subsection (3) in 1984. Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) didn't use the term validated in 1984 and doesn't currently use that term. This has been confusing for some who are barred by K.S.A. 65-516(a)(3) because their names are in the registry based on a substantiated finding of abuse or neglect. This change, carried over in section (g), more accurately communicates the cause and effect of an SRS determination of abuse or neglect.

We appreciate the efforts of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to safeguard this federal funding stream for Kansas and ask your support of SB 201.

I would be happy to answer any questions.